

DRAFT ONLY

CABIN MASTER LIST

LOT: 10 LOCATION: West PERMIT #: SP 8550-1-1179

NAME: Enter the name which you would like your property to be identified as for the National Register. If there is no historical name enter N/A.

HISTORIC: Faculty Flat, WMK 10
AND/OR COMMON: Koch, Richard, Cabin

LOCATION:

Mineral King Road
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
(Mineral King District)
California Code: CA
17th Congressional District
Tulare County Code: 107

CLASSIFICATION:

CATEGORY: Building
OWNERSHIP: Private
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: In Process
STATUS: Occupied
ACCESSIBLE: Yes:Restricted
PRESENT USE: Private Residence

OWNER OF PROPERTY:

Richard & Kathryn Koch
2125 Ames St.
Los Angeles, CA 90027
vicinity of

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Tulare County Courthouse
County Civic Center
2900 West Burrel
Visalia, California 93291

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:

TITLE:
ELIGIBLE:
DATE: February 1, 1884, filed
FEDERAL
SURVEY REC: Land Office
by Geo. S. Collins
CITY: Visalia
STATE: California

The following information should only apply to the area of your lot boundaries.

DESCRIPTION:

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Other: NPS rustic architecture
TYPE OF STRUCTURE: Single dwelling
BUILDING PLACEMENT: Detached
CONDITION: Good

MOVED: N DATE:

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Overall shape and arrangement of interior spaces:

Number of stories (including lofts): *2*

Roof shape: All are gabled.

Structural system: All are framed.

HISTORICAL SPECIFIC FEATURES (type, location, number and appearance): example: porches, windows, chimneys, etc.

IMPORTANT DECORATIVE ELEMENTS: example: etching in fireplace mantles

SIGNIFICANT INTERIOR FEATURES: such as: stairways; flooring, i.e. hard wood floor. paneling, i.e. knotty wood pine; chimneypieces, i.e. rock and slate

OUTBUILDINGS (number, type location and dates):

Out house. Built at time of original cabin

HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE: example: forest, rock formations, rivers
and paths

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION: The cabin was very tiny but it had a
picture window and a hinged section of the
roof so that the stars could be seen at
night.

PRESENT DESCRIPTION: *Shed shingled. Deck overlooking Kawaiki River.
Small addition on west side*

CABIN DIMENSIONS:

MATERIALS: Enter only those materials that are visible on the
exterior.

WOOD

Shingle ✓
Log
Plywood/particle board
Shake
Batten & Board

STONE

Granite
Sandstone (including
brownstone)
Limestone
Slate
Marble

METAL

Tin
Anodized Steel
Aluminum

OTHER

Asphalt
Asbestos
Concrete
Adobe
Ceramic Tile
Glass
Cloth/Canvas

SYNTHETICS

Fiber Glass
Vinyl
Rubber
Plastic

LOCATION OF MATERIALS: Atwell's Mill

SURROUNDINGS NORTH OF THE CABIN: *Road*

SURROUNDINGS SOUTH: *Hawash River*

SURROUNDINGS WEST: *Asay cabin*

SURROUNDINGS EAST: *Bungay cabin*

ALTERATIONS: Note: Some alterations were due to the United States Forest Service requirements for special use permits. Alterations were stated on the Residence Inspection Reports.

In 1929 a real kitchen with a butane stove, hot water heater, butane lights, a stall shower in the bathroom and a flush toilet were installed. In 1958 when the Koch family took over they installed a wood burning cook stove from Sears & Roebuck because of close call with the butane stove.

INTEGRITY: Any deterioration due to vandalism, animals, neglect, lack of use or weather.

All of the cabins have survived the heavy snow falls with the average snow fall about 20 feet and the historical snow packs on record. Weather extremes also are important to historical integrity with summer temperatures of 95 degrees and above at the 8000 foot elevation.

SIGNIFICANCE:

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Exploration/Settlement

PERIOD: Enter the period of time in which the property achieved the significance.

1926

SPECIFIC DATES: Enter the dates of Exploration/Settlement.

SIGNIFICANCE DESCRIPTION: Discuss what happened on those SPECIFIC DATES. Example: relatives who had any connection with exploration of Mineral King area or settlement.

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Mr. Hanna

HISTORY: Cabin #10 at Faculty Flat was built about 1926 by Mr. Hanna, who taught chemistry in the Los Angeles school system. He was a bachelor so the cabin was very tiny. He enjoyed the view of the river so much, that long before the days of picture windows, he installed a large picture window in the south wall of the cabin. One can still enjoy a view of the river from that very window. The glass has never even had to be replaced. Mr. Hanna also enjoyed seeing the stars at night, so he hinged a section of the roof so that he could prop it up at night and get a good view of the southern sky. The hinged section has long since been shingled over. Mr. Hanna planted a row of fir trees that are still growing on the west boundary of the lot. He sold his cabin to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cushman about 1929.

Hank Cushman was a shop teacher in southern California and he made many improvements in the cabin over the years. The crowning glory was a real flush toilet.

Hank and Edna spent the entire summer at Mineral King each year along with their little dog. One summer they took a pack trip from Mineral King to Mount Whitney. Those were the days before light weight packing equipment was available. Hank did carpentry work on many of the other cabins and Edna was a great cook. But Hank and Edna never had guests at the cabin because they said it was too small for more than two people. So everyone was surprised when, in 1958, the Cushmans sold the cabin to the Koch family, which took up summer residence along with their five children.

Jean Koch had spent her summer vacations camping at Mineral King since she was a child, but it was getting almost impossible to camp with five children and each year the Kochs made inquiries about cabins for sale. So when the Bungays introduced them to Hank and Edna, who planned on selling out soon, they had jumped at the chance. The Kochs soon discovered why the Cushmans felt the cabin was too small for more than two people. Hank had the attic fairly stuffed with building materials-- buckets of nails, buckets of bent nails, pipes and pipe fittings, rolls of linoleum, rolls of tar paper, etc. Dick and Jean spent their first summer sorting out the things in the attic and set about turning it into wall-to-wall beds. The gasoline washing machine in the basement was busy those early years. In fact, a neighbor said she thought the centipedes had moved in, there were so many little socks on the line. Jean Koch never mastered the art of cooking on Edna's butane stove. In fact, there was a minor explosion every time Jean lit the oven and Dick's eyebrows were burnt off most of that summer. The stove had a multitude of handles for tuning on various gas jets, some of them only about 3 feet from the floor--just the right height for curious little Kochs to investigate. After several scares, the Kochs ordered a wood burning cook stove from Sears & Roebuck and with the help of Everett Wood, installed it. The second year the Kochs were there, they shocked Mineral Kingites by inviting their friends, the Asays and their 5 children to visit them. That made a total of 14 people in the cabin that was too small for more than two people. The Asays were bedded down in the attic, which was none too comfortable, especially for Lyal, since every time he stood up straight, he banged his head on the ceiling. After that the Asays visited the Kochs each summer until the Asays bought their own cabin next door.

As the children grew older, the two families began hiking and later back packing together. Their first big trip was to Mount Whitney and back, a distance of 110 miles. The following year, they drove 150 miles north of Mineral King and hiked south 150 miles on the John Muir Trail. Both the Asays and the Kochs, along with many other people who were interested in preventing Mineral King from being developed, worked very hard on the Mineral King Task Force. They started a fund that was used to produce a film on Mineral King that was made by Burton Peterson and Jim Rascoe, who were graduate students in the Cinema Department at the University of Southern California.

Beginning in 1971, the Kochs took up cross-country skiing and, along with the Asays, began coming into the cabin on winter weekends. Although it is very primitive at Mineral King in the winter with no running water in the cabins, necessitating trips to the outhouse and trip through snow drifts to the river for water, they found the valley gorgeous and restful in its glistening winter coat.

The Koch children grew up but they still enjoy coming to the cabin. Now three of the grandchildren go on the annual Koch-Asay back pack hike.

ARCHITECTURAL JUSTIFICATION: List any architectural qualities that give the cabin architectural history. If there are not any enter N/A.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES:

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

BOOKS:

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

ACREAGE: .52

QUADRANGLE NAME: Mineral King

QUADRANGLE: Sec. 16, Township 17 South, Range 31 East, Mount
Diablo Base and Meridian

SCALE: 1:62500

BOUNDARY: 180' x 202' x 98' x 143'

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER: 70-11-17